

Message Text

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45

ACTION PA-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 COME-00 EB-11 USIA-15 SCI-06

SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EPA-04

CEQ-02 PRS-01 CU-04 H-03 RSR-01 (ADP) W

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P R 271345Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1729

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, SENV, OVIP, NL

SUBJ: SPOKANE 1974 INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

REF: THE HAGUE 3265

1. CHARGE SAW STATE SECRETARY BRINKHORST (RESPONSIBLE FOR ENVIRO-
MENTAL MATTERS IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) MORNING JULY
27 TO DELIVER LETTER ON BEHALF OF THE SPOKANE 1974 INTERNATIONAL
EXPOSITION (STATE 143191). CHARGE ALSO GAVE BRINKHORST COPY OF
ILLUSTRATED BROCHURE, EXTOLLED SPOKANE AS SETTING FOR EXPO 74, AND
NOTED PRESIDENT NIXON'S PERSONAL INTEREST.

2. BRINKHORST'S REPLY, PREFIGURED IN EMBASSY CONVERSATION WITH
MFA WORKING LEVEL TWO DAYS AGO, BOILED DOWN TO VIRTUALLY NO RPT
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NO CHANCE OF DUTCH PARTICIPATION ON EITHER AN NATIONAL OR

BENELUX BASIS SIMPLY BECAUSE OF INTENSIVE DUTCH BUDGET DISCUSSIONS OF LAST SEVERAL WEEKS WHICH RESULTED IN REDUCTION OF MANY ITEMS HELD ESSENTIAL BY BRINKHORST AND OTHER MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT BECAUSE FUNDS COULD NOT BE FOUND TO COVER THEM. IN THE FACE OF THIS SITUATION, HE DOUBTED VERY MUCH THAT HIS GOVT COULD SEE ITS WAY CLEAR TO TAKING ON THE ADDITIONAL EXPENSE INVOLVED IN PARTICIPATING IN EXPO 74.

3. BRINKHORST CONTINUED THAT SITUATION WOULD BE QUITE DIFFERENT IF THE EC AS SUCH DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE. THIS WOULD REDUCE THE COST OF PARTICIPATION TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBER GOVTS BECAUSE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF EC FUNDS TO DEFRAY PART OF THE EXPENSE. BRINKHORST WAS AWARE THAT THE MAJOR OBSTACLE TO EC PARTICIPATION WAS THE FRENCH GOVT. CHARGE INDICATED THAT US WAS CONSIDERING A HIGH-LEVEL APPROACH TO THE GOF TO MODIFY ITS OPPOSITION TO PARTICIPATION, WHICH WE HAD BEEN TOLD WAS STRICTLY ON BUDGETARY GROUNDS. BRINKHORST THOUGHT IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY DESIRABLE TO APPROACH THE FRENCH IN THIS WAY AND REITERATED THAT IF WE COULD BRING THE FRENCH AROUND TO AGREEING TO PARTICIPATION BY THE EC, THIS WOULD ENABLE THE GON TO LOOK AT THE QUESTION IN A MUCH MORE FAVORABLE LIGHT.

4. BRINKHORST, WHO HAD COME OUT OF A CABINET MEETING TO RECEIVE THE CHARGE, WENT BACK TO DISCUSS CHARGE'S APPROACH WITH MRS. VORRINK, MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT. HE RETURNED A FEW MINUTES LATER, SAYING THAT MRS. VORRINK ENDORSED COMPLETELY THE POSITION HE HAD GIVEN THE CHARGE. MRS. VORRINK ADDED THAT SHE WOULD BE GGAD TO RECEIVE COMMISSIONER HENDERSON ON THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 30, PROVIDED HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE DUTCH POSITION AND DID NOT EXPECT IT WOULD CHANGE AS A RESULT OF HIS VISIT.

5. WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH COMMISSIONER HENDERSON VIA EMBASSY BRUSSELS AND WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIM AND HIS PARTY TO MEET WITH MINISTER VORRINK, PRECEDED PERHAPS BY A MEETING WITH WORKING LEVEL FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS SINCE BRINKHORST LEAVES ON VACATION JULY 27. BRINKHORST SAID HIS OFFICE COULD REACH HIM WHILE HE WAS AWAY, JULY 27-AUGUST 18, AND ASKED THE EMBASSY TO INFORM HIM OF THE RESULTS OF ANY FURTHER APPROACHES BY THE US TO THE FRENCH. THE CHARGE PROMISED TO DO SO.

TANGUY

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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